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Richard Gale, *Yeoman*

of Watertown : : in the
Massachusetts Bay Colony

1614 - 1678

Compiled by
Edward Chenery Gale

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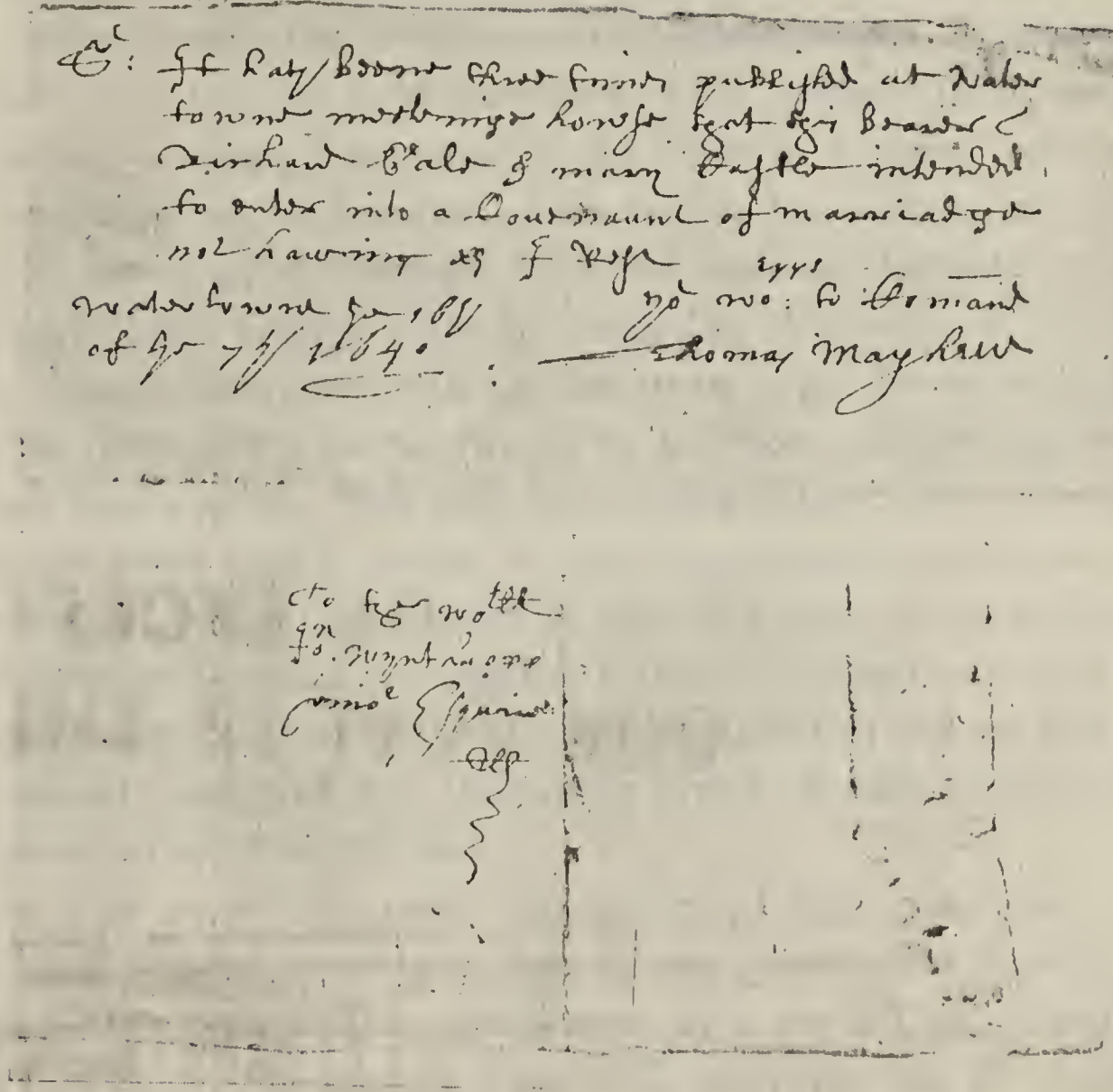


Facsimile of Richard Gale's Marriage Certificate

Rec'd Sept 28-1978

Foreword

THIS little book concerns itself with Richard Gale, Yeoman, of Watertown in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, born in England in 1614, died in Watertown in 1678. Richard Gale was the progenitor of many, if not most of the Gales in America today and the first emigrant to America of his family line. Those interested in Gale genealogy are familiar with the book on that subject published by Judge George Gale of Galesville, Wisconsin, in 1866, a work of great labor and merit. In fact, were it not for this compilation, the Gales of this country would be in almost complete ignorance of their family origin. This book was published over sixty years ago. Some few years since a number of Gale descendants feeling that the researches of Judge Gale should be carried further in an endeavor to ascertain more about the original Richard Gale and especially his antecedents, got together in an informal organization and secured the professional services of Mrs. Elizabeth French Bartlett of Boston to undertake certain research work.

The plan or perhaps rather the dream of those interested contemplated also the bringing to date all the genealogical material in Judge Gale's book and the publication of a revised and complete Gale Genealogy. The moving spirit in this enterprise was Mr. Francis G. Gale of Waterville, Quebec. Mr. Francis Gale died in 1927. The persons interested are widely scattered. It seems unlikely at this time that the Gale Genealogy will be brought to date or that much more work of any kind will be done in the near future. In order therefore that what has been accomplished, although incomplete, may not be lost, the writer has compiled this little volume embodying the results of the search respecting Richard Gale, our first American ancestor.

He wishes to acknowledge the interest and generosity of the many Gale descendants who have contributed to the expense of the research, and especially to pay tribute to the memory of Mr. Francis Gale, a man of unusual culture as well as zeal in genealogy. It will of course be understood that most of the material here presented has been the result of the painstaking and intelligent services of Mrs. Bartlett supplemented in part by the work of Mr. Vincent B. Redstone of London.

NOTE: Among the persons who took part in this organization were the following: Mr. Francis G. Gale, Waterville, Quebec, Canada; Mrs. Zona Gale Breese, Portage, Wisconsin; Mr. Lyman W. Gale, Mr. Edwards J. Gale and Mr. Burton L. Gale, all of Boston, Massachusetts; Mr. William E. Gale of Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts; Mr. John Gale Morrison, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Mr. Herbert E. Gale, Swampscott, Massachusetts; Mrs. Alice Carey Gale Hobson, Haverhill, Massachusetts; Mr. Edward C. Gale, Williamstown, Massachusetts; Miss Alice I. Gale, Springfield, Massachusetts; Mr. Cyrus E. Gale and Mr. Arthur P. Gale, Jackson, New Hampshire; Mr. Charles B. Gale and Mr. Clarence A. Gale, Montpelier, Vermont; Mr. Alfred W. Gale, Troy, New York; Mrs. Charles W. Gale, Norwich, Connecticut; Mr. Phillip B. Gale, Hartford, Connecticut; Mr. Francis Wickwire and Miss Gale Wickwire, Clyde, Ohio; Mr. George Washington Gale, Norwood, Ohio; Mr. Frederick Gale, Chicago, Illinois; Mr. William M. Gale, Evanston, Illinois; Mr. Harry Gale, Oak Park, Illinois; Mr. Frank W. Gale, San Francisco, California; Mr. Ray Gale, Los Angeles, California; Mr. Edward C. Gale, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

I.

THE interest in one's ancestors is a laudable one, if not carried to excess as do the Chinese, perhaps. Not to take a *reasonable* interest in one's ancestry would seem to imply a lack of decent respect for that vast mysterious past out of which the present has come into being. Whether we like it or not we are what our ancestors have made us. No apology would seem necessary therefore for presenting the results of genealogical study even when limited to a single family line. Nor should any apology be necessary for the special interest of Americans in the first of their ancestors to transplant the family name to the new world. Like first editions which tho' the print may be no better and in fact sometimes worse than later editions, nevertheless have an interest because they are *first*, so the first of the ancestral line to cross the seas and start family traditions anew, will always have a place of special interest and importance for his descendants.

Since the publication of Judge Gale's book considerable source material has come to light not readily available to him at that time, as a result of which some additional facts are now known respecting our Richard Gale. The most interesting of these facts perhaps is concerning his marriage. There has been found among the personal papers of Governor Winthrop now in the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society, a loose time-stained little paper, a facsimile of which is published on the front piece of this book reading as follows:

"Sir: It hath beene three times published at Watertowne meeteinge howse that this bearer Richard Gale & Mary Castle intended to enter into a covenaunt of marriadge not having els I rest

Watertowne ye 16th of ye 7th 1640

your Worshipps to comand
THOMAS MAYHEW

To the Worshipfull
Jn Wynthropp Junior Esquire"

Thomas Mayhew was one of the elective governing board or Selectmen of Watertown and afterwards became prominent as the Governor of the Province of Rhode Island.

The "worshipfull" John Winthrop, Junior, was the eldest son of Governor John Winthrop of Massachusetts, already prominent in the affairs of the Colony and afterwards Governor of Connecticut as his father had been of Massachusetts Bay. At this time he was a Magistrate or member of the Board of Assistants (the Governing Board) of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and residing chiefly in Boston. It is of him that the following incident is told by his father in his Journal under date of December 9th, 1640: (II Winthrop's Journal—Hosmer 1908—p. 18)

"About this time there fell out a thing worthy of observation. Mr. Winthrop the younger, one of the magistrates, having many books in a chamber where there was corn of divers sorts, had among them one where in the Greek testament, the psalms and the common prayer were bound together. He found the common prayer eaten with mice, every leaf of it, and not any of the two other touched, nor any other of his books, though there were above a thousand."

The point of this remarkable story is of course that the Book of Common Prayer of the English Church was anathema to the Puritans.

To return to Thomas Mayhew's certificate, however, what happened was that in the month of September (seventh month old style) in the year 1640 Richard Gale and Mary Castle, after having the bans properly proclaimed in Watertown where they resided, journeyed over to Boston with the certificate in their hands and presented themselves before John Winthrop, Jr., perhaps the nearest Magistrate qualified to perform marriages: for at that period, strange to say, marriages were not solemnized by the ministers. The certificate was filed by Winthrop among his other official papers and the ceremony no doubt at once performed by him. Richard and Mary's first child, Mary, was born in 1641. It is pleasant to conjecture that some especial friendship or acquaintance with the Winthrops in old Eng-

land led the young couple to have their marriage performed by John Winthrop, Jr., and it is not impossible that this was so. As we shall see later, Richard Gale undoubtedly came from some parish in Suffolk, England, at not a great distance from Groton whence came the Winthrops. It may well be that aside from any conveniences or necessities of the case, Richard and Mary chose to be married by one held by them in long respect and who in turn may have known them or their people back in their English homes. The marriage was a happy one apparently, she surviving her husband and being abundantly provided for in his will quoted at length in the Gale Genealogy. He died in 1678 and she in 1681—according to these items in the Watertown Town Records; "Richard Gall dyed the 22 of March" (1678): "Mary Geale the wife of Richard Geale dyed the 2d of August 1681."

Another interesting reference to Richard Gale has been unearthed in the court records of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, for the year 1656. One William Clemence petitioned for divorce, as did also his wife Susan, 12 May 1656. William Fuller and Elizabeth his wife, Margaret Allin of Braintree, Thomas Wilson, John Carr and *Richard Gale* all "deposed" in this suit.

"The Testimony of Richard Gall being about 42 yeares of age is that upon the Day of Willyam Clemments & his wifes Marrige Richard Willis & the wife of William Clemments with others cumming from Rocksberry: that I did heare the wife of the sayd Willyam Clemments say that if here husband were as hansume a man as Richard Willis Oh how she could love him & I told here, that she ought to Love him better than any others [here are three lines heavily inked over, the last five words of which appear to be "that with other basse language"] this she hath sayd that she would see him Hangged before he should Cum neare her to touch her." Taken upon oath this 16 (5) 1656 (16 May 1656) before mee Humphrey Atharton."

Without entering into the merits of this unfortunate matrimonial controversy and it seems there were such even in early Colonial days, the part played therein by our Richard Gale would seem entirely praiseworthy. The importance of his deposition to us however, lies in the

evidence of his age. It determines the year of his birth to be "about" 1614 and his age at time of marriage to be "about" 26, and at the time of his death "about" 64.

Watertown was first settled in 1630. The site was divided up among the original settlers on some equitable basis that seemed to be satisfactory to them and as the settlement grew this process was repeated from time to time. The first large grant of "Dividents" was allotted in 1636 as appears by the Town Records (published by the Watertown Historical Society 1894), but there were other town grants from time to time, especially of "lots" both before and after the "Great Dividents" of 1636. Richard Gale's name does not appear in any of these grants, whether because too young at the time or whether because not then a resident of Watertown or whether because not a member of the Watertown Church. His name does appear however in the "First Inventory (i.e. census) of Grants and Possessions" taken in 1640, as follows (Watertown Records p. 47):

> "Richard Gale, Six Acres of upland by estimation bounded the North Wth the highway the East wth Samuel Freeman the West wth Joseph Bemis & the South wth Nathan Fiske in his Possession."

The "Third Inventory" of 1646 (Records p. 131) records substantially the same. This "homestall" of six acres was a part of the lot in the town plot originally granted by the Town to Elder Richard Browne (Bond's History of Watertown p. 1009) and conveyed by Browne to Gale at least as early as 1640 as shown by the "First Inventory" and perhaps earlier. The date of Richard Gale's first settlement, however, in Watertown is not known. He probably arrived before 1640. This year was the date of his marriage, he being then 26, and the acquisition of a "homestall" might well have accompanied this happy event. The location of the Gale "homestall" as shown upon Bond's Map of the Original Allotments of Watertown republished in Robinson's Great Little Watertown (1930) is in the

extreme western part of Watertown (Proper), the present Watertown, between Main and Warren Streets as they exist today. It was there Richard and Mary lived for over twenty years until they moved to the more ambitious "Dummer" or "Oldham" farm. The "Oldham" farm was originally a tract of 500 acres lying on the north of the Charles River in what is now the City of Waltham.

In a letter written in 1920 to Mrs. Zona Gale Breese, Mr. Thomas Armstrong formerly City Solicitor of Watertown and an antiquarian of note gives much interesting information concerning this farm:

"Dec. 2, 1661, Richard Dummer sold the northeasterly half of the Oldham farm (250 a.) to Richard Gale—and that part of the farm continued in the Gale family until very recent times, passing down from father to son for several generations, until early in the last century, it passed from Samuel Gale to his two sons, Jacob Gale and Alpheus Gale.

"On the death of Alpheus Gale, 1828, this farm was purchased by the town for a town farm, and the Gale house was used as the Almshouse for nearly half a century. The Southwesterly end of the farm, embracing the hill named by Gov. Winthrop, Mt. Feake, about fifty years ago was set apart as a town cemetery, a small portion being appropriated as a pumping station for the town water supply,—and the easterly end sold off for house lots to meet the growing demand for a development of the city in that direction,—leaving between these two sections a space of some forty acres, where now stand the 'City Home' and the Waltham Hospital—which last institution occupies an emminence sometimes called 'Bee Hive Hill.'

"I do not recall that any portion of the original farm is now occupied by any descendant of Richard Gale.

"The boundaries of the Oldham Farm are difficult to ascertain by reason of so many division fences being obliterated, but the Southeast bound was Charles River,—the Southwest bound appears to be on land of Edw. Garfield, a farm granted to Garfield being bounded West by Stony Brook. The Northwest bound was partly by land granted to Garfield, partly by South St., west of the loop which forms the Amasa Harrington houselot, and continuing in the same direction Northeasterly to a point not far from Pearl Street, where it turns and runs nearly Easterly to the N. E. corner of the old schoolhouse lot at the corner of Grant and Charles Streets—thence the line runs Southerly to Charles River. The Westerly line of the half sold to Gale is the line between the Mt. Feake Cemetery and the Waltham Water Works Reservation taken from the Harringtons in 1888 to preserve the water supply from contamination.

"No part of the farm extends North of Main St. It is true that the map in Bond's History and Genealogies of Watertown shows the Oldham Farm as in-

cluding a portion of land North of Main St., but that is an error growing out of the fact that Jacob Gale occupied a mansion house North of Main Steet nearly opposite South Street. Mr. Gale did build that house and occupy it until his death in 1828, and his wife, Lois Gale, continued to occupy it until her death in 1852,—shortly after which it was conveyed to Gov. N. P. Banks, and occupied by him until his death. But Jacob Gale acquired that estate by purchase from several persons, none of them descendants of Richard Gale."

It would seem that the pleasant story in the Gale Genealogy of Gen. Banks' mansion and estate being located on a part of the old Richard Gale farm, unfortunately has no foundation in fact. Nor so far as known are there any descendants of Richard Gale living in Waltham or Watertown at the present day. As Mr. Armstrong says "It is an instance of one of the pitiable aspects of New England life that the Gale family seems to have entirely disappeared from Waltham (and Watertown also) while a hundred years ago the Gales were the most prominent of our citizens."

How our ancestor managed to make and save enough from his six acre "homestall" to purchase this larger farm is inexplicable except upon the theory that he was a man of unusual thrift. It is to be said however that early Watertown was notedly a cattle town and that large areas were reserved as "Commons" or for common pasturage. A small "homestall" of six acres might not therefore have been a very serious limitation to one engaged in the dairy or cattle business as doubtless our ancestor was. The size of this Oldham Farm must also be considered in connection with its character. In Richard Gale's will, published in full in the Gale Genealogy, the farm is described as a "dwelling house and barne with about 250 acres of land adjoining to it whereof: 12 acres is broke up: and aboute: 12 acres is meadow and an acre of it in an orchard:" The rest of the acreage was presumably rough, rocky pasture land and unproductive. Its value was inventoried in Richard Gale's estate in 1679 at £150. The whole 500 acres had been previously appraised in 1648 at £70. Money values in early Colonial days were on a much lower basis than now and this

fact should be taken into consideration in measuring real value. Incomes were small measured in money. Mr. Sherman's salary as pastor of the Watertown Church was fixed annually for many years at £140. Mr. Norcross employed "to keep the schoole," received £30. Most commodities were in proportion, so that the ownership of this farm even at its low inventoried value and its meagre acreage under cultivation must have connoted a prosperous and self-sufficient material condition on the part of its owner. That this was so is evidenced by the following venture noted in the Town Records, combining business perhaps with a measure of charity, undertaken by our ancestor:

"These wittnes yt Richard Gale, have covenanted to take, the daughter of John Baall, Saraih Baall abought the age of 2 yeares, in consideration thereof, and sd Gale is to have the child for fower yeares, & the sd Ball is to find the sd Sarah necessary cloathing for 3 yeares of the sd 4, as allso to pay the sd Gale six pounds at psent of Currant pay acording to country pay, and at 2 yeares end the sd Ball is to give the sd Gale, six pounds more & the last yeare of the fower the sd Gale, is to provide for the sd Child, convenient cloathing. It is allso agreed by theire mutuall consent for security of the other six pounds, the sd Ball doth ingage his home lott, for the payment thearof, & at the time when it should be pd, for defect thearof, the sd land shall be sould & the six pounds to be pd out of the same, & the remainder returne to the sd John Baall the true meaning is, yt soe much of the land apon a dew aprisall shall be sould as shall pay the six pounds.

dated this 3d of January (1656)"

An interesting light is thrown on courtships at that period by the following entry in certain court proceedings: one witness testified that "John Gale, son of Richard, in 1677 was a goodwiler to ye daughter of Henry Spring." Henry Spring and Mehitable his wife testified that "Goodman Richard Gale came to our house to ask our goodwill to make a match between our daughter Elizabeth and his son John. He promised to give his son John half his farm" etc. It is a source of satisfaction, especially to all descendants of John and Elizabeth to know that Richard's efforts as a "goodwiler" were entirely successful as the following entry in the Town Records show:

"1677 John Gaal and Elizabeth Spring Joyned in mariage the 27 of September:" and that they had six children and lived happily ever after at least so far as known. It is equally a source of satisfaction to all of Richard's descendants to know that by his will he fulfilled substantially his promise to his son John.

Another domestic affair of Richard's appears in the Town Records, of not so happy a nature. Their fourth child, a son, Ephraim, who died young, appears to have been "discomposed in his head" and seems to have caused his parents considerable annoyance and some expense as shown by several entries in the Court and Town records.

II.

THIS little Watertown colony was not only a theocracy like most of the early New England settlements but a close corporation as well, as the following Town Records attest:

"January 3, 1635. Agreed that no man being foreigner ( ) coming out of England, or some other Plantation, shall have liberty to sett downe amongst us, unles he first have the Consent of the Freemen of the Towne."

"Agreed, by the Consent of the Freemen (in consideration there be too many Inhabitants in the Towne & the Towne thereby in danger to be ruinated) that no Foreainer comming into the Towne, or any Family arising among our selves shall have any benefitt either of Commonage, or Land undivided but what they shall purchase, except that they buy a mans right wholly in the Towne."

"Aprill 23, 1638. Ordered that those Freemen of the Congregation shall build & dwell upon their Lotts at the Towne plott, & not to alienate them by selling or exchanging them to any forrainer, but to Freemen of the Congregation, It being our reall intent to sitt down there close togither, & therefore these Lotts were granted to those Freemen yt inhabited most remote from ye meeting-house & dwell most scattered, (for want of a penalty set this Order of no force.)"

"1638 Dec. 29, (M. 10) Ordered that all those Inhabitants yt have beene by Common Consent or vote taken in amongst us, or have had Dividents granted to them shalbe accepted for Townesmen, & no others."

Richard Gale appears never to have been a member of the Watertown Church, and therefore never a "freeman" nor entitled to vote in the affairs of the Town. He was one of the residents of the Town who were classed simply as Townsmen. They were suffered to remain as residents and even to receive grants of lands tho' on a less favorable basis.

"July 17, 1638. Ordered yt all those Freemen yt have no Lotts at ye Towneship shall have 12 Acres Lotts beyond Bever plaine, & all other Townesmen shall have 6 Acre Lotts in ye said place."

They could however buy outright from some "freeman" as did our Richard. It is a tribute to his persistence, perhaps obstinacy, that he was able to and did squeeze himself into this tight little Colony and that he acquired by purchase a "homestall" of even six acres. There

is this much to be said however about the intolerance of the early Puritans. They never intended and they never pretended to establish an asylum for the oppressed of mankind, either in religion or politics. They did their best to keep out such persons as were not of their liking, and they made no secret about this purpose.

Into this closely knit little community still English at heart as well as in form, hard-headed, thrifty, intolerant and yet essentially kindly, Richard Gale entered and became one of them, tilled his stubborn farm, reared his family of six children, lived out his days and passed on. Of his social position in England and in the New England Colony there can be no doubt. His own description of himself in his will as "yeoman" and the same description of him in the deed to him of the "homestall" determines that. He was a "yeoman" and such description referred not merely to occupation but to a definite social status. A "yeoman" corresponded to a middle class farmer of today. In the English social structure it had a well defined meaning. Yeomen were next below "Esquires and Gentlemen." Quoting Blackstone, "A Yeoman is he that hath free land of forty shillings by the year: who was anciently thereby qualified to serve on juries, vote for Knights of the Shire and do any other act where the law requires one that is probus et legalis homo." The next lower of the commonality were "tradesmen, artificers and laborers." Few, if any, yeomen in England at that time even if "free holders" owned their land outright as we understand the term today in America, but were tenants of one kind or another in the complicated legal system that prevailed respecting land titles. Undoubtedly there was an added inducement for the emigration of these English Puritans besides the desire for religious freedom for themselves, in the ease with which they could acquire full and absolute ownership of land in the new world free from any sort of tenancy.

At any rate while they changed their skies they did not altogether

change their customs. The social distinctions and social nomenclature brought from England long persisted in the New England Colonies. When we find therefore that Richard Gale in his will described himself as "Yeoman" we know the social class to which he belonged not only in the Massachusetts Bay Colony but also in England before emigrating. It is therefore certain that he did not have the right to bear arms or use a crest or coat of arms in any form. Very few of the New England Colonists did. The descendants of Richard Gale need not study Burke's Landed Gentry therefore for armorial bearings but will have to content themselves with having a good honest "Yeoman" for an ancestor. They will have to forbear the use in any emblematic form of a "Gale" coat of arms. There were Gales in England however who did have such right as mentioned in the Gale Genealogy, but we are not of their line. Nor can we trace any known connection to the rather prominent Gale family of Scruton in Yorkshire nor indeed to any of the several Gales in England who had made a name for themselves at about that period; Roger Gale who wrote the Reliquarium (1672-1744); the Rev. Thomas Gale (1635-1702) who wrote queer treatises with equal facility and equal dulness in Hebrew, Latin, Greek and English; or the Rev. Theophilus Gale (1628-1678) an equally learned theologian whose name is preserved in Harvard University by the bequest of his library to the College.

But if Richard Gale was not of the gentry nor conspicuous in the affairs of the Colony, he very evidently pursued the even tenor of his way as a law-abiding citizen, representative of a cross-section of that sturdy, sound, thrifty stock which peopled the early Colonies. To quote from Mrs. Bartlett:

"Richard Gale, while he evidently did not take any part in public affairs, was evidently one of those rare persons who stay at home and *mind their own business*. We do not find him testifying as to what this man said or did, (except, we shall have to admit the Clements divorce suit) or as to what he saw, and he

is never once before the court for even the smallest infraction of the law, such as calling another man a rogue! He evidently agreed with the poet Longfellow that 'home keeping hearts are happiest.' And the same may be said of his children save for poor Ephraim, who of course was not responsible."

It is true that he was never during his life admitted to membership in the Watertown Church, but as Bond says (History of Watertown p. 1016) "there were some men holding respectable social positions who were never admitted or not until advanced age. It was not necessary to be a church member or a freeman in order to hold office in the Town or appointment from the Court." Nor are we to infer that because he was not such church member, Richard Gale was an irreligious man. He certainly would have been haled before the Court or before the Selectmen and indeed he would not have been admitted in Watertown at all, if he had been a "Godless" man. He may have been loth to "separate" from the Church of England or he may have had peculiar reasons of his own, or he may have been just obstinate. There were such in the Colonies. It was an age of obstinancy. That he was essentially however a "Church" man, is shown by the preamble of his will: "I give my spirit unto the hands of God that gave it and my body to the Earth from whence it was taken; hoping through the meedeation of Jesus Christ to have raised again at the great day."

III.

WHENCE came Richard Gale? This question is discussed somewhat painstakingly in the Gale Genealogy but the sources of information then available to the author were so meagre that no conclusion was reached or could well be reached by him. Judge Gale states the presumption to be however that Richard Gale was of English origin. This statement is quite too cautious. It is absolutely certain that any man of that name in the Massachusetts Bay Colony at that time was of English stock. In fact no parish in England at that time or even now was or is more purely English than the several original settlements around the shores of Massachusetts Bay. Our first immigrant was unquestionably of that great Puritan emigration which commencing about 1628 and continuing until its rather abrupt termination by the rise of the Puritan commonwealth in England in 1640, brought some 5000 families and over 25,000 persons, men, women and children, to people a new world! No more remarkable transplanting of a race, whether from the standpoint of character or motive, has ever taken place. But if Richard Gale was indisputably of English origin, what part of England did he come from and with what particular family of English Gales does he connect?

The family name "Gale" while not a common one, is not on the other hand an unusual one in England. Respecting its origin, Judge Gale indulges in some speculations, tracing it to the Gaelic; that is to say a Gael, one who in an Anglo-Saxon community was a Gael or of the Gaelic race; or perhaps one who was a Gael in the time of the Roman occupation. As is well known, surnames were not in use among the mass of the English people until the 11th and 12th centuries and it is highly improbable that the name Gale was used as a family designation before that period, that is to say, long after the

Romans had gone. When surnames came into use, and they were forced upon the people in rather a wholesale fashion during the period named, they were usually taken from names of places or occupations or personal peculiarities or from natural objects. The Gale family name may have come from several sources. Weekley in "Surnames" (1916) p. 311, also in his "Romance of Names" (1914), p. 134, gives a possible double origin to the name. Galle is the French form of Wales, as witness our modern Prince de Galles (Prince of Wales), the name Galle meaning a Welchman. Or the name may have come from an entirely different source, i.e. from the old English word "Gaol," a jail. Beardsley in "Dictionary of English Names" (1901), gives the same possible double origin of the name as does also Baring-Gould in "Family Names" (1910), p. 108. Gentry in "Family Names" (1892), p. 26, gives the origin of the surname Gall as Irish, meaning a foreigner or stranger; also possibly from the old Saxon verb "Galen"—to sing as in the modern word Nightingale. Harrison in "Surnames of United Kingdom" (1912) traces the origin of the name to an old English meaning of the word "gale" now obsolete, gay or lively; or also to "Gaol," a jail, or to a Scandinavian form of the word introduced by the Danish invasion—meaning a glen or narrow place. This last theory has an added probability in that East Anglia was largely influenced by the Danish invasion and family names in that region were markedly monosyllabic. Fortunately for the good name of the family the "gaol" origin does not necessarily mean that the original Gale or Gales were inmates of a jail. The name attached just as did the family name of Richard's wife, "Castle"; one who dwelt not necessarily in but by or near a castle. However, if one may choose in the midst of the conflicting theories on the subject, the author prefers some ancient association with the nightingale. Furthermore, if natural objects or natural phenomena are considered as the possible

origin of our name, as it often was of family names, we may note that Gale in old English and even today is the name of a shrub of the myrtle family; and as certain families took on the name of Hill, Stone, Rose, Ash, Bush and so on, why not our ancestors the name of the myrtle? We purposely avoid any reference to Gale as wind. The subject of the origin of the name is largely however one of speculation and it is not likely that a definite solution will ever be reached.

But whatever the origin of the name it is now known that in the 17th Century there were and are still for that matter, families of the name of Gale in almost every county of England, altho' scarcer in the north of England. The problem then is the same that presents itself in every genealogical research of American families of English descent, viz: where and what is the connecting link? In fact of the 5000 families represented in the Puritan Emigration, it is estimated that not more than one-fifth have had their English parish origin or their English line definitely determined.

Coming back to Richard Gale, it is known that of the Puritan emigrants of 1630-1640 some two-thirds, roughly speaking, came from that part of England known as East Anglia, from the Counties of Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex, a region always marked and perhaps still marked for its spirit of non-conformity. Of the remaining one-third, one-half, roughly speaking again, came from Devonshire, Dorset and Somerset and the other half from other portions of England. To note however the predominating influence of East Anglia in the new settlement, one has only to compare the names of various towns and counties in Eastern Massachusetts today with the names of parishes in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex in old England.

Furthermore, not infrequently a New England settlement was first peopled by families or individuals from the same county or even

from the same parish migrating together in groups as was natural or occasionally under the leadership of a single non-conformist Minister. Watertown was essentially a Suffolk colony. Conspicuous among these immigrants were the Shermans who came from Dedham, and John Winthrop, who altho' he settled in Boston came with his Suffolk neighbors from Groton.

The probabilities are therefore that Richard Gale being one of the early settlers of Watertown was of Suffolk or nearby origin.

It is evident also that the Richard Gale mentioned in the Gale Genealogy as having sailed from London to the Barbadoes in 1635 at the age of 16 could not have been our ancestor because of the difference in ages, if for no other reason. The search was therefore narrowed down to parishes in the Counties of Suffolk and Essex. A large number of the records of these parishes has been examined. Naturally but little of the data collected can be published in this volume, but much of the material has been deposited with the Minnesota Historical Society for permanent safe keeping for the benefit of future family historians.

IV.

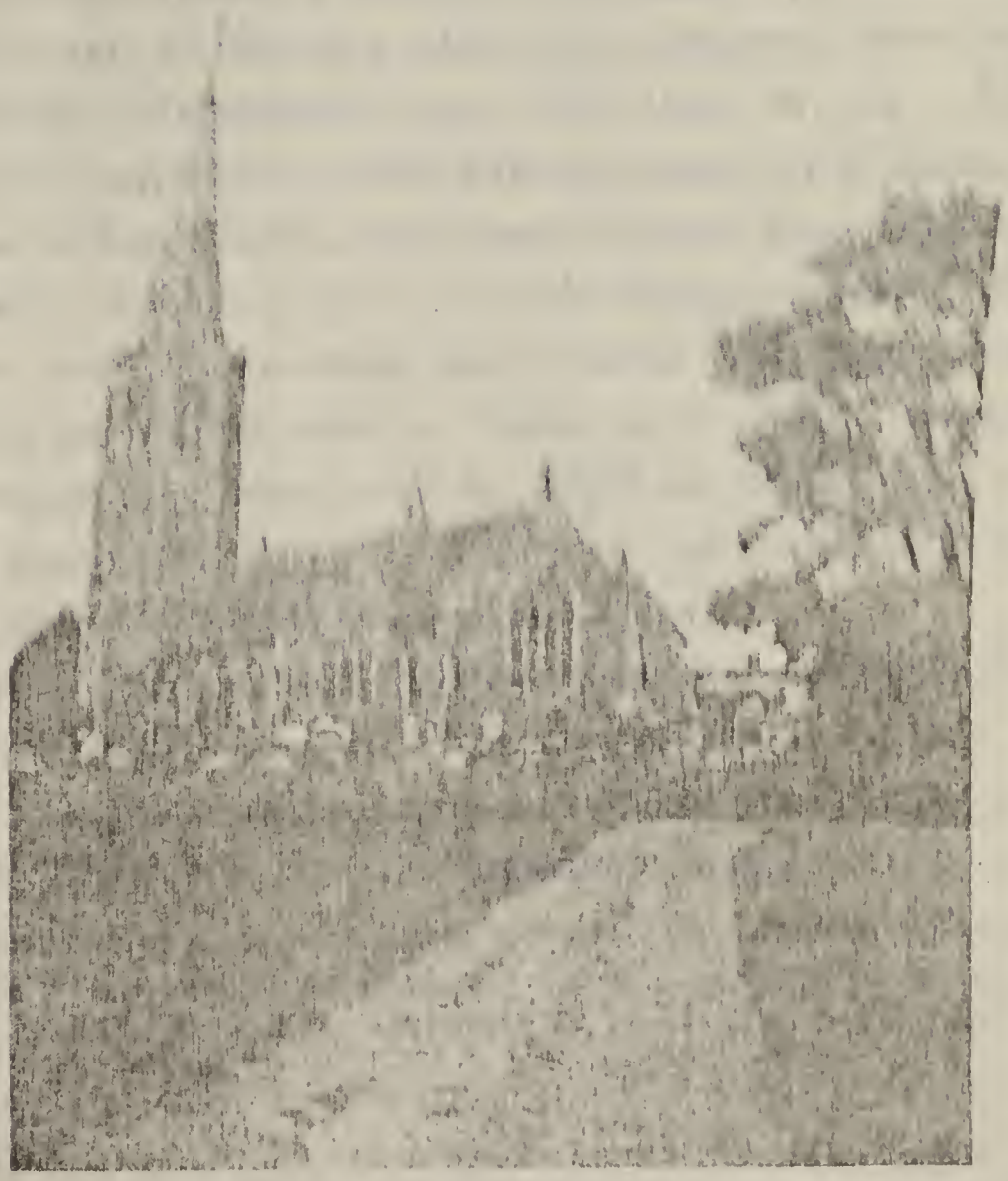
THE parish registers as well as the records of wills show that there were a number of families of the name of Gale in the two Counties of Suffolk and Essex at or about the period of the Puritan emigration. Persons of that name are known to have lived in the parishes of Hopton, Bildeston, Aldeburgh, Wickham Market, Edwardston, Groton and Hadleigh, in Suffolk; Dedham, West Bergholt, Saffron Walden, Kelvedon, Inworth, Elmstead, Arlesford, Langenide, East Mersea, Peldon, Cold Norton, Farnbridge, Canewden, Paglesham, Great Burstead, Stanford le Hope, and Dagenham in Essex; and this does not pretend to be an exhaustive list. True, the name was spelled in various ways in those days of loose spelling, Gaile, Galle, Gall, Gayle, but it was probably the same generic family name. Abstracts of some of the records from these various parishes are published for their general interest in the appendix of this report together with the lay subsidy and ship money tax list for Suffolk. Especial interest attaches to the will of Robert Gale of West Bergholt (Appendix p. 25) dated 4/27/1607, in that he leaves to Edward Sherman and Richard Sherman of Dedham substantial bequests. These two Shermans were subsequently emigrants to Cambridge in Massachusetts and the progenitors of the well known Sherman line in America. The bequests probably indicate some sort of relationship between the testator and the Shermans.

The will of Richard Gale of Langenhoe in Essex (Appendix p. 25) gives as a legacy "to Abraham Gale the youngest of my brother's (John) three sons, £ 4 my brother John Gale did owe me." Rather a shrewd disposition of the old debt. This was not our Richard. However, two of our Richard's sons born in Watertown

were named Abraham and John and there may have been some family connection with Richard of Langenhoe.

Considerable interest attaches also to the entries of the parish register of St. Bartholomew's Church in Groton (Appendix p. 26) altho they throw no direct light upon our Richard. Groton was the original home of Governor John Winthrop whose son John as we have seen, probably performed the marriage ceremony between Richard Gale and Mary Castle in Boston in 1640. The Winthrops were of the gentry, prominent in the County and in all East Anglia. Adam Winthrop, father of John Winthrop, Governor of Massachusetts, was lord of the manor of Groton, Auditor of Trinity and St. John's Colleges at Cambridge and an influential man. It is flattering to find that one, Richard Gale, acted as co-trustee with Adam Winthrop of a certain trust about the year 1590. This Richard may have been the same Richard who appeared before Adam Winthrop as Lord of the Groton Manor in certain copyhold proceedings in 1583. Furthermore one, Thomas Gale, in 1562 was a witness to the will of Adam Winthrop, Sr., grandfather of Governor John Winthrop. Adam Winthrop, the father, kept a daily journal for many years, an exceedingly quaint and human document. It has been published by the Massachusetts Historical Society (Winthrop Papers, volume 1, 1929). A few of the many entries in this diary in which Gales are mentioned are here published in the Appendix (p. 27). Altho we cannot now connect our ancestor directly with any of these Gale mentions in the Groton records, there is evidently a fruitful field for further search in that or some neighboring parish, especially as it is well known that not a few Watertown settlers were from that place, neighbors and acquaintances of their leader Governor Winthrop.

A close rival however to the claims of Groton or its vicinity as the place of origin of the emigrant Richard is the parish of Wickham Market some twenty-five miles to the northeast of Groton but also



The Church, Wickham Market

in Suffolk. The will of Richard "Gall" of that parish in 1611 will be found in the Appendix (p. 27). In this will the family name is spelled "Gall" which was the spelling in our Richard Gale's deposition in the Clements divorce case and also in his will. This form of the name was rather peculiar to the Suffolk folk of this region and even allowing for the easy standards of spelling in those days it has some bearing upon our problem. Furthermore, the son Richard described in this will is of the right age to be the father of the emigrant Richard and the name of another son Edmond, mentioned in the will, is the same as that of another Gale emigrant who first settled in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and died there in 1642. And there were Castles (our Richard's wife's family name) in Wickham Market tho' not as numerous as in and around Groton. The records of Wickham Market, however, show no Gale mentioned after 1611. The family for some reason must have moved soon after that date to some other parish, but what or where is at present unknown. The present writer in a recent visit to Wickham Market was unable to find any Gales now living or known in that parish nor any tombstones in the church-yard bearing that name.

It is to be regretted that the present effort to ascertain the precise parish from which Richard Gale emigrated to America, whether Groton or Wickham Market or some other, has not been successful. As Judge Gale said in his Gale Genealogy, now over sixty years ago:

> "The evidence must be looked up hereafter by some enterprising member of the family who may visit England and will probably be found, if at all, in the records of wills and the settlement of estates and in the family records."

Similarly but little information has been obtained toward solving the riddle of the several other Gales who came to America about the same time as Richard and from whom a considerable number of Gales in America claim descent. Other than a possible clue through the mention of an Edmund Gale in the will of Richard Gale of Wickham Market above quoted, we know almost nothing of that

Edmund Gale who settled in Cambridge and died there in 1642. Respecting Abel Gale of Long Island there is a family tradition in America that he came from Yorkshire. Unfortunately such search as has been made has wholly failed to substantiate this tradition. The name of Gale is scarce in Yorkshire and the farther north one goes the scarcer it gets. No trace of Abel Gale has been found so far.

The case of Bartholomew Gale, born about 1641, is a little more hopeful. Title Registry of Wills of Hennock, Devonshire, discloses a Bartholomew Gale who died before December 15th, 1562, leaving a will in which eight children are named, one of whom Robert died leaving a will also in which his son Bartholomew is named as then being a child (1648). It is possible this child Bartholomew is the identical Bartholomew head of his line in America. The armorial family of Gale of Crediton in Devonshire had a branch in Hennock and it is possible there was some connection between this branch and our American Bartholomew. Bartholomew Gale and Ambrose Gale may have been brothers and Edmund Gale another brother also. Ambrose was born about 1628 according to certain depositions. The Robert Gale occasionally mentioned in the early New England records was a resident of the Barbadoes and not of New England, coming to the Colonies only on trading voyages.

While it is to be regretted, as stated before, that the present effort has not succeeded in determining the exact place of origin of our ancestor Richard Gale of Watertown, it is some satisfaction to know that it undoubtedly was some one of the many close-lying little parishes in northeastern Essex or southeastern Suffolk within a radius of ten or fifteen miles from Colchester or Ipswich. It is a pleasant country-side, looking today in its general features doubtless much the same as it looked three hundred years ago when our forefathers left their ancestral homes to found a new generation in a new world. Low sloping uplands and gentle streams, hedges, fields and copses,

peaceful villages and old churches mellowed with time, all combine to make an intimate landscape very pleasant to contemplate as the original home of our English forebears.

FINIS

Appendix

1. Abstract of will of Robert Gale of West Barfolde (West Bergholt) Co. Essex, clothier 27 April 1607.

"To my wife Margerie both my houses in the parish of St. Peter's in Colchester during her natural life and after her death my will is that Edmond Sherman of Deadham shall have to him and his heirs forever that house that Robert Osborne now dwelleth in, he paying to John Gale's children of Deadham £10 within one month after he cometh into possession thereof, the said Edmond to be bound in £20 to pay the said sum. My other house now in the possession of Charles Cricket after the decease of my wife, I leave to Richard Sherman of Deadham and his heirs forever, he paying to his brother Beza £10 within one month after he come into possession of it. To Edmond Sherman £10 to be paid in one year after my decease. To An Aunger 40sh. within one year after my decease. To the poor of St. Peter's parish, Colchester, 40sh., 10sh. a year for four years. To the poor of West Bardholt 10sh. All the residue of my movable goods to my wife, whom I make executrix. (Signed the Marke R of Robert Gale of West Bargholt."

Witnesses: Sidney Leltridge, Eliz: Grinstoyss, John Wilbie mark.

[No probate but filed in the bundle for 1608-9]

(Archdeaconry of Colchester, Bundle Bacon, no. 80. Original will.)

2. Abstract of will of Richard Gale [of Lagenhoe in the calendar], 5 May 1623.

2016559

"To be buried in the churchyard of Polden [Pelden]. To my brother John Gele's three children John, Ste[phen] and Abraham £5 each at the age of 21. To Abraham G(ale) the youngest of my brother' three sons £4 ( ) my brother John Gele did owe me, which is now in the hands of my sister-in-law Merthe Gele. To my sister-in-law Merthe Gele all such household stuff as I have there. To my brother-in-law John Goodings two children which he had by my sister Em Gale £10 to John his son £5 and to Marey Goodinge his daughter £5, when they come to their ages of 20 years. If either die, reversion to the survivor.

To my brother Thomas Gele's three sons, Thomas, John and Timothy 50sh. each at the age of twenty years.

To Elisebeth Gele, daughter to my brother Thomas Gele £5 at the age of eighteen years.

To Mr. Harrison minister of lezerdelehe (Layer de la Haye) £5.

To my merter (?master) Thomas Vnderwoodw £5.

To the poor of Peldon £5.

To the poor of Langenho £10.

To my kinswomen Agnes Owen and Elisabeth Houchen, both of Peldon 20sh. each.

To nicklus Leech of Peldon, Jems henelocke of Lagenho and Richard Luckes of Lagenho, 20sh. each.

To Stephen Gele, second son of my brother John Gel £3.

To Merey Goodinge daughter of John Goodinge, which he had by my sister Em Gele £3.

Executor, my brother Thomas Gele.

(Signed) Richard Gale."

Witnesses: Rebeceke Luckes her marke, An Keys hir marke.

Probated at Colchester 10 April 1624.

(Commissary of London (Essex and Herts) 1623-4, no 63. Original will)

3. Entries from the Registers of St. Bartholomew's Church, Groton, Suffolk.

Baptisms

Ana galle the Davghter of willm galle and Annae his wife was baptized the 18th day of July 1585.

Richard galle the sonne of willm galle and agnes his wife was baptized the 4th day of septemb 1586.

Alis galle the davghter of willm and Agnes was baptized the 10th day of November 1588.

Bridget galle the Davghter of willm galle & of Margret his wife was baptized the 20th of Januarye 1599 (-1600)

Josepth Galle the sonne of Willm gall & of his wife was baptized the 19th of ffebruary 1602 (-3)

Thomas Gall the sonne of willm Galle & of his wife was baptized the 26th day of August 1606.

Marie Gall daughter of Thomas & Rachell his wyff baptized september 29th 1633.

Marriages

Willm Jacksonne and Elizabeth galle was Maried the xiith Day of Maye 1571.

(The same entry is made 12 May 1578, which is probably correct.)

Willm galle and Anna Narchante was maried the third day of Nouembr 1584.

William holden & Margaret gayle were marryed the 6. of november 1618.

Francis Browne and Bridget Gale were married october ye 25th 1627.

Burials

Richard galls wife was buryed the 16 of Nouember 1582.
Olde Richard Galle was Buryed the 15th of aprile 1587.
Anna galle the wife of willm galle was buryed the 25th day of Maye 1593.
Richard Gall was buried the 8th day of May 1614.
Katherine Gale was buried ye thirde of Julye 1629.
Agnes Gale was buried the 25th of Aprill 1624.
Willyam Gale was buried y second of ffebruar' 1625 (-6)
Margaret Galle was buried 28 ffebruary 1638 (-9).

4. Entries from the diary of Adam Winthrop ("Winthrop Papers," Vol. I, Massachusetts Historical Society 1929).

1586. "The iiijth of September Richarde Gale the soonne of William Gale was baptized in Groton."

1602. "The xviijth daye Januarry Willm Gale did give over his office of High Constableshippe, & John Gale of Hadleigh was sworne in his place."

1604. "The xvth day (December) Josephe Cole & Marye Gale were maried betymes in the mornynge."

1605. "The viijth of Maye Willm Gale of Hadley died."

1608. "The xijth of July I was at Hadley & heard Dr. Jones preache at the buriall of the wydowe Gale. Act. 9, v. 36."

1609. "The xviijth day (October) Willm Gale had a house burnt."

1621. Oct. 6. "Thomas Gale died of ye smale pockes."

5. Abstract of the Will of Richard Gall of Wickham M'kett, co. Suffolk, weaver, dated 14 Nov. 9, James I (1611)

"Sick in body etc.

To my son Richard Gall all my house called the Bearne and a piece of land called the fen and my meadow, to him and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, on condition that he pay all my debts.

To Johane my wife, all the rest of my houses and lands unbequeathed, during her life, with reversion to my son Richard, he to pay out of them within one year after my wife's decease to my daughter Margery Gall £ 4, within two years to my daughter Margaret Gall £ 4, within three years to my son Edmund Gall £ 4, within four years to my daughter Joane £ 4, and within five years to my son Robert £ 4.

If any child die before receiving his or her portion, leaving no issue, reversion to my surviving children.

If my son Richard refuse to pay said legacies, then the land to my son Edmund and he to pay them.

All my movable goods to my wife Joane

Executor: my son Richard Gall

Md. That (1) Richard Gall have surrendered according to this my will."

Witnesses: Richard Baker, William Lingewood, and Christopher Crapnell. Proved 8 Jan. 1611 (1611/12) by the executor.
(Archdeaconry of Suffolk, vol. 44, fo. 187.)

6. Lay Subsidy for Suffolk 1568.

Edward Gale Hadleigh, 6/8.
John Gale, Boxford, 8/4
Richard Gale Groton 3/4
Edward Gale Edwardston 15/
Robert Gale Little Waldingfield 4/2
William Gale Hadleigh 8/4
Robert Galle Sibton 10/10

7. Essex Ship Money Tax List 1635-1637. (20,000 names)

West Mersey. Timothy Gaell 4s.
Paglesham. Nicholas Gale 4s. 6d.
Hackwell. Widdowe Gale 3s.
South Shoebury, Milton Hamlet. John Gull 3s. 6d.
South Fambridge. Thomas Galer 16s. 6d.
Mount Bures. William Gale 1s.
Feering, Mr. Gaell 5s.
Romford, Noake Hill Ward. Richard Jeale 7s.

8. Ship Money Tax List for Suffolk, 1639/40.

Thomas Gale Sutton 3/9
Thomas Gael Groton 2/6
John Gall Hacheston
William Gall Wangford 1/6
John Gall Hopton 6/
Galle Francis Gislingham 3/3

9. Knoddishall Parish Church Record:

"Nathaniel, son of Richard and Mary Gaull was baptised 23 Dec, 1623."